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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) Waterborne cathodic electrodeposition (CED) coating agents comprising resin solids and optionally pigments, fillers, organic solvents and conventional coating additives, wherein said CED coating agents comprise at least one bismuth salt selected from the group consisting of bismuth hydroxycarboxylic acid salts and bismuth sulfonic acid salts in a quantity of 0.1 to 2.5 wt-%, calculated as bismuth and relative to resin solids content, together with at least one compound selected from the group consisting of yttrium and neodymium compounds in a quantity of 0.1 to 1 wt-%, calculated as metal and based on resin solids content.
2. (Original) The CED coating agents of claim 1, wherein the bismuth hydroxycarboxylic acid salts are selected from the group consisting of bismuth lactate and bismuth dimethylolpropionate and the bismuth sulfonic acid salts are selected from the group consisting of bismuth amidosulfonate and bismuth hydrocarbylsulfonates.
3. (Original) The CED coating agents of claim 1, wherein the proportion of the at least one bismuth salt is 0.5 to 2 wt-%, calculated as bismuth and relative to resin solids content.
4. (Original) The CED coating agents of claim 1, wherein the yttrium and neodymium compounds comprise salts selected from the group consisting of yttrium sulfate, yttrium nitrate, carboxylic acid salts of yttrium, hydrocarbylsulfonates of yttrium, neodymium sulfate, neodymium nitrate, carboxylic acid salts of neodymium and hydrocarbylsulfonates of neodymium.
5. (Original) The CED coating agents of claim 1, wherein the proportion of the at least one compound selected from the group consisting of yttrium and neodymium compounds is 0.15 to 0.5 wt-%, calculated as metal and relative to resin solids content.
6. (Currently amended) A process for cathodic electrodeposition coating of an electrically conductive substrates ~~using a CED coating agent of claim 1~~ said process

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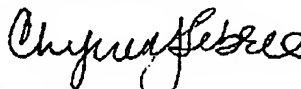
Each of the examples contains a rare earth element, including example 7g comprising neodymium. In para 229 it is stated that the inclusion of a rare earth metal in an electrodepositable coating composition of the present invention provides improved scribe creep corrosion resistance over an analogous composition which does not contain a rare earth metal. Indeed this statement admits that McCollum is directed to improvement of scribe creep corrosion, which is a different technical concept from edge corrosion. In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection made under 35 USC 103(a) is requested.

The Examiner has provisionally rejected claims 1-7 and 9 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 4-6 and 8 of co-pending Application No. 10/668,956 in view of McCollum et. Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's rejection as well as the fact that the claims have not been found allowable in the co-pending application or in the present case. Applicants agree to address the rejection when and if claims are found allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims. If anything further is needed to advance prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' attorney using the contact information provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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